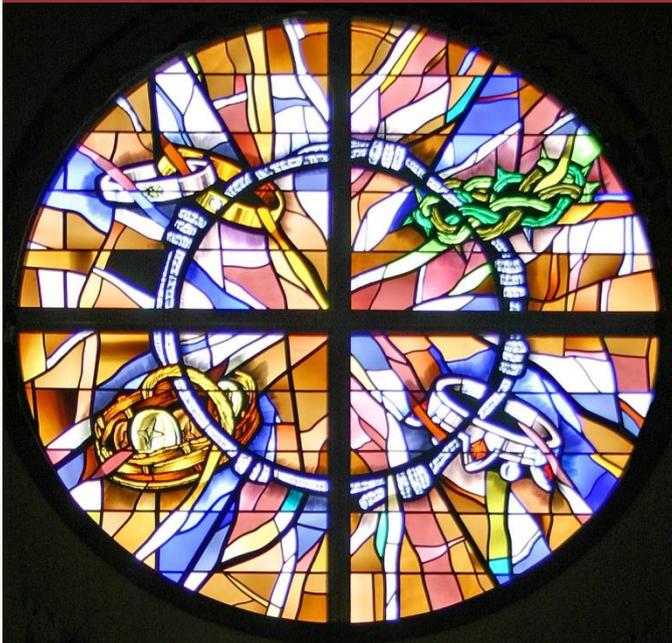


"Upon this rock, I will build my church"



JOURNAL DEDICATION: OUR FOUR PASTORS

Monsignor Arthur J. Kane, 1962 - 1985

On June 24, 1962, Bishop Walter J. Kellenberg of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, appointed Fr. Arthur J. Kane to be the pastor of one of five new parishes, St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Melville. With enthusiasm, hard work, and the generosity of a faith-filled community, Father Kane began the task of construction of the parish "plant."

One by one, our buildings were constructed - our current church building (opened for its first mass in February 1965), followed by the convent of St. Joseph, the first floor of the school (now The Parish Center) and the rectory. Prior to, and during construction, ministry meetings were held in space donated by businesses in the area along with parishioners who gave space in their homes. Father Kane was tireless in his commitment to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and, with the Sisters of St. Joseph, offered many opportunities for the updating of parishioners. Father Kane was named a Monsignor in 1982. In 1985, at seventy-five years of age, Monsignor Kane retired but continued to live in the rectory and serve the Parish. He died on June 2, 2001 at the St. Pius X Residence in Amityville.



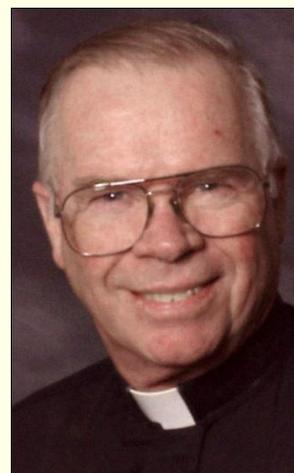
Father John J. Fitzgerald, 1985 - 1990

In 1985, Fr. John J. Fitzgerald became the second pastor and began his tenure with a parish that was vibrant, alive and gearing up for its first fall “Festival of People.”

On September 27, 1987, we celebrated twenty-five years of caring and sharing at St. Elizabeth. Mass was celebrated with Bishop John McGann presiding and followed by the Third Annual Festival of People.

Fr. Fitzgerald introduced the idea of renovating the church rather than continuing with piecemeal repairs. He employed the assistance of Fr. Richard Vosko, a Liturgical Design Consultant. Fr. Vosko presented his ideas to the parish at all the masses and at preliminary meetings in January and February of 1987.

Questionnaires were distributed at masses, collected and reviewed by committees until a final plan was created. The approval process was complicated and involved both the Town of Huntington and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Approvals were obtained by the fall of 1989 with a projection of going to contract the following spring. Bishop McGann transferred Fr. Fitzgerald before the construction began.

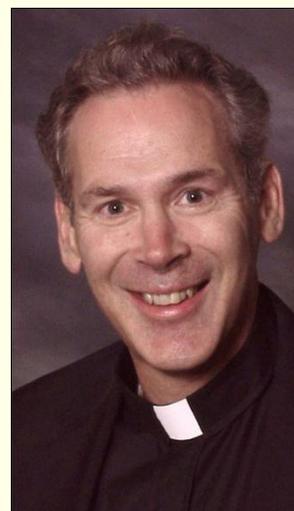


Father Bruce J. Powers, 1990 - 2006

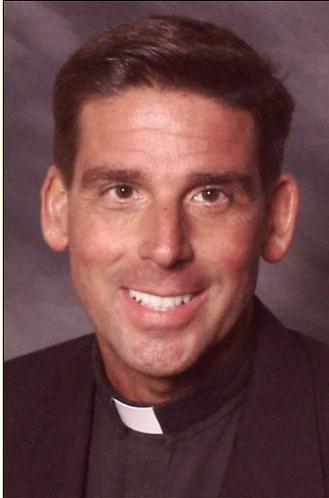
Shortly after his arrival at St. Elizabeth’s parish Fr. Bruce Powers called a Town Hall Meeting where he presented the current state of the parish and the status of the planned renovation. Weekly meetings began and, by the beginning of September, the pews were removed from our church and taken to Rochester for refurbishing. Sunday masses were moved to the basement, weddings were scheduled in surrounding parishes and daily mass was held in the convent chapel.

Fr. Bruce introduced Stewardship and re-envisioned the Pastoral Team and Pastoral Council. Plans were developed for a pipe organ and stained glass window depicting the life of St. Elizabeth. Through Fr. Bruce’s focus on Stewardship as a parish way of life with its time, talent and treasure components, new ministries were developed and financial challenges were met. The parking lot was redesigned. Small islands with trees and an overhang and cupola enhanced our front entrance along with the welcoming statue of St. Elizabeth in the center of the entrance circle.

Through it all, ministries began to flourish along with the morale of the parish. It was stewardship in action. Many structural and financial accomplishments took place in the course of Fr. Bruce’s 16 years at St. Elizabeth’s Church.



Monsignor Francis J. Schneider, 2006 - present



By the fall of 2006, Fr. Frank initiated a “Pastoral Study” conducted by Greg Cellini, who was discerning his vocation as a Franciscan Brother of Brooklyn. The results of this year long process resulted in the development of a Five Year Plan. Fr. Frank, along with the Pastoral Council, has used the plan to guide the parish.

A major concern of the parish was a more structured Youth Ministry, which began in 2007. Other areas addressed have been an on-going review and strengthening of sacraments, adult faith formation, evangelization, communication and stewardship.

A major part of the plan was preparation for the 2011-2012 celebration of the 50th Anniversary. Fr. Frank and the Pastoral Council worked on the mission and vision for this parish milestone, including more awareness of our patroness, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and her ministries during the short twenty-four years of her life. The physical plant was re-evaluated and repairs were made to maintain the integrity of our buildings and grounds. Fr. Frank has seen the Jubilee as a wonderful opportunity for parish renewal and evangelization.

